

1525

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*Twelve* **QUERIES** *humblly offered, relating to*  
*the BILL for Restraining the Wearing East-*  
*India Silks, &c. in ENGLAND.*

I. **W**H Y should not *East-India Silks, Bengalls, &c.* be prohibited to be worn in *England*, when by reason of their extraordinary Cheapness they will certainly extreamly prejudice, if not utterly destroy our own Manufactures?

II. Why should we prohibit the *Dutch and Italian Silks*, when by reason of their Dearness and the Ingenuity of our *English Workmen*, we have in a great measure beat them out of that Trade several years past, and both *Dutch and Italians* take off great quantities of our Woollen Manufactures?

III. Why should we send our *Gold and Silver* to the *East-Indies*, from whence it will never return to purchase their Manufactures to be worn in *England*, when we have so Noble a Manufacture of our own, which has of late years been so greatly improved, and may yet be further improved, if due Incouragement be given thereunto, and will very well answer all the uses of *India Silks, &c.*?

IV. Why should we send our *Money* to imploy the poor in *India*, when we have very great Numbers of Poor at home, who must either Starve for want of Work, be Relieved by Charity, or Remove to *Forreign Parts* to get their Livelihood?

V. Whether if the *East-India Company* should be settled with a Stock of 2000000 *l.* and no Restraint be laid upon them, it will not then be in their power to bring in such vast quantities of Manufactured Goods, as will destroy our own Manufactures when they please?

VI. Whether the *English Wooll* yielded so good a Price, or, Rents so well paid, or the Poor so well Imployed (some years past) when the generality of all Sorts and Degrees of Persons wore *East-India Manufactures*, as they have since the *East-India Goods*, have been scarce and dear?

VII. Whether that Position of Sir *Josiah Child* (*The Great Champion for the East-India Trade*) laid down in the Preface of his Treatise upon Trade, do not strenuously plead for the Bill? *viz. That the Expence of Forreign Commodities, especially Forreign Manufactures, is the worst Expence a Nation can be inclinable to, and ought to be prevented as much as possible.*

VIII. Why may not the Linnen Drapers sell our own Silks and other Manufactures, as well as *East-India Silks, Bengalls, &c.* and if they will not, whether their Interest or Humour ought to be preferred before the Interest of all those vast Numbers that have their whole Livelihood and Dependance upon our *Silk and Woollen Manufactures*, or receive great Benefit thereby?

IX. Whether there is not as much reason for *East-India Manufactures* to be prohibited to be worn in *England*, as there was to prohibit them in *France*, which was actually done about Eight years since?

X. What advantage is it to this Nation (if it were true as is asserted) that the *East-India Company* send out our Cloth, and sell it in *Persia* for wrought Silks? whereas formerly the *Turkey Company* used to supply the *Persians*, and have in return Raw Silk, and might do so again, if the Trade were turned into its old Channel.

XI. Whether the preventing *India Manufactures* to be worn in *England*, will not disappoint the *Scotch East-India Company*, and prevent the running their Goods (which will be Custom-free) upon us, and thereby give a great Check to their growth and progress? and whether this may not be the great reason that makes one who Subscribed a great Sum, and was Chosen a *Committee-man* of that Company, so zealously Sollicit against the Bill.

XII. Whether if the *East-India Trade* be not Restrained before a Company be settled by Act of Parliament, and it should afterward be found necessary to be done, it may not then be very difficult (if not impossible) to obtain, considering what Methods have by the *East-India Company* in former days been taken to support and defend their Interest, against all Opposers.